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**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to noon

**Rev. Amy Janssen**  
Pastor  
**Brenda Varani**  
Parish Secretary

Come and see us on the web!  
[www.gelc.info](http://www.gelc.info)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Ways to Worship**

**In the Sanctuary**

We are currently worshipping in-person in our sanctuary. Please assess your own health and be prepared to follow the guidelines publicized in the newsletter and bulletin as you consider attending worship indoors. If, at any time, the local schools switch back to online-only instruction, indoor in-person worship will be suspended and only the livestream & TV worship options will continue.

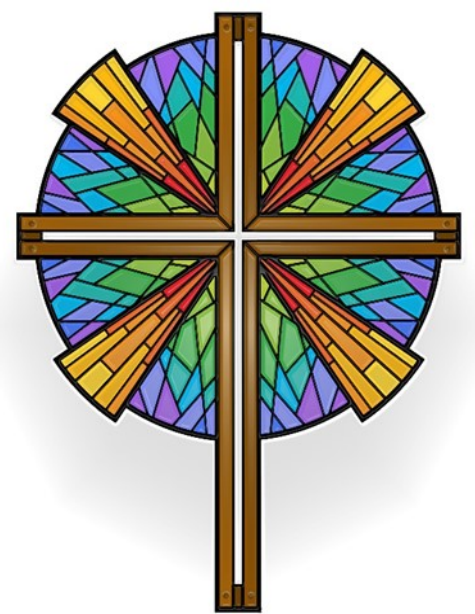
**Facebook Livestream**

We will continue to livestream our worship on our Facebook page at 9 am on Sundays. The video will be available throughout the rest of the week as well.

**Local Public Access TV**

Worship is still available on TV, on Channel 5 (Mediacom).

The schedule is:  
Mondays – 6:30 pm  
Tuesdays – 4:00 pm  
Wednesdays – 10:00 am  
Fridays – 7:00 pm  
Sundays – 8:00 am (one week behind)



**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**  
Virginia, Minnesota  
[www.gelc.info](http://www.gelc.info)

**Mission Statement**  
To draw all people to Christ, nurture faith, and fulfill our calling to serve

**Vision for Gethsemane**  
A vibrant place of worship, learning and service, where every person is passionate about their belonging and their ministry

**Marks of Discipleship**  
Pray daily  
Study Scriptures diligently  
Worship weekly  
Encourage Faith in Others  
Serve for the sake of others  
Give freely

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# Gethsemane Gazette

August, 2021 Volume 43, Issue 8

**Join us for August Worship and Events!**

**Summer Worship Schedule. Thursday Night Outdoor Service June - August at 6:30 pm.**

This summer our weekly Thursday night worship service will be an outdoor service on the patio! Feel free to bring your own lawn chair so you are comfortable as we gather around the Word and the Meal. (Should it rain, we will find a space inside to gather.)  
This month: Aug. 5 - VBS celebration  
Aug. 12  
Aug. 19 - LAST Thursday worship  
Join everyone on Aug. 26 for Rock the Block! (see p. 5)

**Sunday Outdoor Worship 3rd Sunday of each month at 9 am**

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and join us out on the grass in front of the patio for our Sunday service. This will give those who are not yet comfortable being inside for worship to be able to be with family and friends. Mark your calendars for the date of our last Outdoor Service: **August 15th**

**Our Council, at the recommendation of the SMART Team, has approved these new policies for stepping down from our current COVID precautions:**

Step 1: when state mask mandates are not in effect.  
- masks optional in all church activities *If you are not vaccinated, you are encouraged to continue wearing a mask.*  
- remove COVID signage from around building/bulletin pages, and discontinue building sign-in for contact tracing *Hand washing and "cover your cough" signs will remain in strategic places.*  
- Coffee An' may be served outdoors at the discretion of the Angel teams

Step 2: when the following county-level guidelines are met: (mostly likely would happen by fall, unless there is a local outbreak)  
~ Daily new cases per 100K are less than or equal to 10  
~ Infection rate is less than or equal to 1  
~ Positive test rate is less than or equal to 10%  
~ Percent of eligible population vaccinated is at least 70%

Then... return to "normal" church procedures which include  
- open all pews in sanctuary  
- serve communion at front with bread and cups of wine/grape juice (wearing gloves or with obvious and frequent hand sanitizer use)  
- resume indoor Coffee An' and funeral luncheons

*After step 2 is achieved, if the county-level statistics spike, we will move back to step 1. If the state reissues the mask mandate, we will reinstate all Yellow level precautions.*

## Gethsemane Angel Coordinators

The Gethsemane Angel program is a way that we, as a congregation, are organizing ourselves in service to the Lord. We ask every person to volunteer to serve during one month of the year with a "Team of Angels" to provide all the help that is needed for worship services.

Each month the Angel Coordinator schedules the Angels with what is needed to be done. We are looking for **2 more Angel Coordinators** for the months of: **August and October**. Please consider helping out for this position. We have a new system up for Funeral Luncheons. The Angel Coordinator will no longer be responsible for the funeral luncheons. For questions, or if you would like to sign-up as an Angel Coordinator, please call the church office at: 741-4961. Thank You.

## Worship Team looking for New Members

Do you have a preference for more traditional music? We would like to have you on our Worship Team. Please join us at our next meeting on September 7th at 6 pm. Hope to see you there!!

## Calling all Thrivent Members!

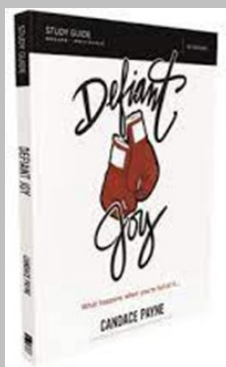
If you are a member of Thrivent, please contact the church office. With so many ideas for community outreach and service coming up, we would love to be able to utilize your \$250 Thrivent Action Team capabilities! We will notify you directly, but ask that you add your name to a list for future possibilities! Thank you!

## Women's Bible Study

**Defiant Joy.** Joy is closer than you think because God is better than you may believe! Our Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study group will be restarting again - in person - starting on Tuesday, September 21st at 5:00 pm. We invite any and all women to join us this fall!

You can purchase a study guide for this Bible Study on Amazon for \$14.99 or on Christianbook.com for \$10.99. Dispel the myths that joy is frivolous, immature, or reserved for a few select "happy" people, and open your heart to receive the freedom and joy GOD created you to live in.

We look forward to seeing YOU!



## From the Pastor

*4For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ~ Romans 12:4-8*

As fall approaches, August a good month to take time to pray, think, and consider your involvement in the various ministries at Gethsemane. Perhaps you have been serving in a particular ministry for so long that it has simply become a part of your life. This could be a joy or a burden. Which has it become for you? Are there other kinds of ministry that might bring you joy or help you feel connected to God's greater purpose? Are you passionate about the things you're already doing and hoping that others will join you? Have you been taking a rest from actively participating in ministry this past year? If so, is it time to step back into active ministry in some small way? Talk about it with your family, your spouse, your friends. Consider where God is calling you to serve as a part of the body of Christ in this place, in this time in your life, with the gifts that you have. It might mean recommitting to your previous ministry team(s), it might mean backing off from them, or searching for something new.

One thing is certain, that we are ALL called by God, as members of the body of Christ, to be a part of God's ministry in our church and community. How we do that is unique to each of us. One way to start discerning your particular calling is to look at the promises we make in our affirmation of baptism (confirmation). We say that we intend "to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; to serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth".

How are you fulfilling your baptismal calling as a child of God? We all are called to these promises in one way or another, but which do you feel most drawn to? That might give you a hint to which ministries of the church you may find the most fulfilling.

## Prayer Wall

**In your daily prayers, pray God's blessings for:**

- ♦ Fran Shimmin, Peggy Tazzell, Quentin Bloomquist, Clarence Ivonon, Mark Andres, Alyssa Newman, and Kathy Meyers.

## QR Code for Giving at Gethsemane:

When you are reading our monthly newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin, you will see our QR giving code. Simply take out your phone, scan the code, put in your password, select how much you want to give for the month, and press done.



It's as easy as that and takes less than a minute!

## We Are Thankful

A big thank you to all the Angels who helped with our July services: Debbie Poderzay, Matt Koski, Joyce Giblin, Brenda Ryberg, Eleanor Anshus, Eila Isaacson, Dana Waldron, Jeff & Nancy Peterson, and Mike Tuominen.

I appreciate your help so much! Blessings to you all.

Pam Fields, July Angel Coordinator

## Council Highlights

Hello Gethsemane! I hope you are having a wonderful summer. One of the main things on the council agenda recently is what needs to be done here at Gethsemane regarding changes in our building and things that need to be "refreshed".

We have decided to have a couple of workdays when hopefully many of you can show up to lend a hand with these items. We are only asking for a few hours of your time and if we get enough people, we will be able to accomplish a lot and it will make the tasks that much easier. The days and times can hopefully accommodate your schedule either one day or both. The days and times are Wednesday, August 11th, from 6pm to 8pm. and Saturday, August 14th, from 9am to noon. Projects needed to be worked on are cleaning and painting the Sunday School room, painting the Fellowship Hall, cleaning and organizing the garage and moving Sunday School materials.

Excitement is building for the fall with Rally Sunday, Mission and Vision meeting, return to regular worship, and community projects.

## Give+: What is it and how do I use it?

Give Plus is an App that you will be able to access and donate to Gethsemane through a quick, simple, and Secure digital payment channel. If you would like a quick no-hassle method to donate, then this method is for you! With just a few simple steps to set up and in the time it takes for the collection plate to go around, you have made your donation.

First things first - Go to the App Store and download the Give+ app. Once downloaded and opened up, provide your email address, Organization Name (which would be Gethsemane Lutheran Virginia MN), name, etc. You then will provide a password that you will want to remember. You can provide several ways of giving (no account, credit card, debit, etc.)

Once you are set up, it literally takes under a minute to donate. \*Password or Fingerprint \*Select the frequency you would like and then select the amount. Select "Next" and method of donation. The next window will ask for verification and then ask you to select "Complete Donation". The next window will thank you and provide a confirmation number.

That's all there is to it! Ask me questions!

Sheila Vandervort

I'm asking all members for their help! Let's all pitch in on these projects that are important for our youth and our congregation. Time and again you have shown your support in many ways and I thank you for that. Please mark these days on your calendar now before it fills up and, again, thank you.

Grace and Peace, Bennet

## Church Pews for Sale, only 3 left!

The Church is selling the pews from the chapel to make room for comfortable chairs.

The pews are 15 feet long and made of oak. Each pew is \$100.00.

Please pay in the office. Thank you.





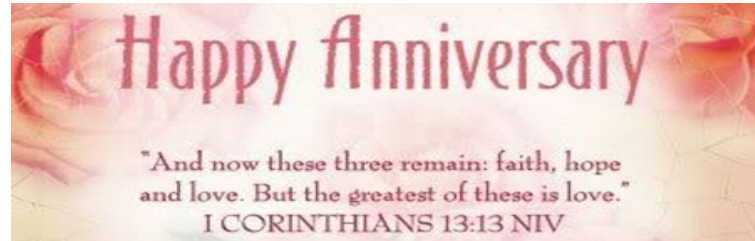
**Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:**

- 1: Billie Burritt, Linda Erickson
- 2: Debra Manninen, Daniel Hilmas, Chauncey Pettinelli, Mattelyn Seppi
- 4: Sue Hiltunen
- 5: Ethie Kniivila
- 6: Tracie Bircham
- 7: Kaija Suihkonen
- 8: Landyn Skaudis
- 9: Hunter Koski, Ann Nelson
- 11: Sandy Dahl
- 12: Brittany Burke
- 15: Dorothy Jalonen
- 16: Kara Burgess, Nancy Peterson
- 17: Nicholas Monacelli
- 18: Nathan Spiering
- 19: Pearl Fossum, Arlene Olson, Dawn Thomas
- 22: Jennifer Tiedeman
- 23: Lynn Mauston
- 26: Ryan Peterson
- 27: Quentin Bloomquist, Danielle Seppi
- 29: Marlene Koski, Marlene Kuitunen, Denise Ramfjord
- 30: Rick Kinnunen, Kevin Lehtinen

**Memorial Gifts received during the month of July**

<b>In Memory of:</b> Carol Erickson	<b>From:</b> Kim Erickson, Carleen Ronchetti
<b>Memorial to Honor:</b> Donna Kay (Ollila) Salo	Kathleen and Michael Unger
<b>In Honor of:</b> Betty Ann & Laurie Laakso	Eila & Clarence Ivonon

Would you like to give in honor of someone for their special day? We would love to acknowledge your gift!



**Look who's celebrating their Anniversary for the Month of August, enjoy your Special Day!**

- Don and JoAnn Sipola 8/6
- Andrea and Dan Alto 8/7
- Jeremy and Shannon Nelson 8/8
- Amy and Kyle Flannigan 8/9
- Barb and Ken Alaspa 8/10
- Cheryl and Craig Aluni 8/13
- Greg and Heather Manninen 8/15
- Jen and Jeremy Waldron 8/15
- Dorothy and Douglas Garland 8/16
- Debbie and William McCormick 8/17
- Marlene and Wayne Kuitunen 8/18
- Jeff and Jennifer Tiedeman 8/25
- Eric and Jennifer Krause 8/29



**Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:**

- 8/1: Marjory Wood
- 8/2: Sandy Wallin
- 8/5: Charles Eichholz, Shelby Karakas
- 8/6: Jack Manninen
- 8/7: Nelson Isaacson
- 8/8: Michaela LeDoux, Bo Seppala
- 8/10: Steven Ramfjord
- 8/13: Tyler Reid
- 8/14: Sharon Lager
- 8/17: Barbara Johnson, Gus Maki
- 8/18: Bethany Harvey
- 8/22: Giles Friedlieb, Douglas Garland
- 8/23: Mikko Meinzer
- 8/24: Connie Christenson, Don Sipola, Andrew Wedge
- 8/25: Mikaela Christenson
- 8/26: Keegan Michalski
- 8/28: Kathleen Horvath, Mary Jo Ralston
- 8/29: Branden Gulbranson, Heather Herbranson
- 8/30: Dorothy Jalonen
- 8/31: Keith Nelson
- 8/??: Alex Gubrud

**\*\*If we have left you out, we need your help to know! Call the office to update your information\*\***

**From the Pastor**

**- continued-**

To live among God's people? Maybe you're called to the hospitality ministries like greeting or ushering. Hear the Word and share in the supper? Maybe you're called to join or start a Bible study, help altar guild set up for worship, or read scripture or prayers in worship. Proclaim the good news? Maybe you can help with Sunday School or Confirmation or join Joyful Noise. Serve all people or strive for justice and peace? Maybe you can join in with the Generosity Team, Habitat for Humanity building, or sew with the Quilters. Take some time this month to look at the skills and gifts that you have been blessed with and imagine how they could be used for God's glory and your joy.

May your discernment lead you to fulfilling ministry for the sake of Christ!

Your co-worker in Christ,  
Pastor Amy

**VBS at Gethsemane!**

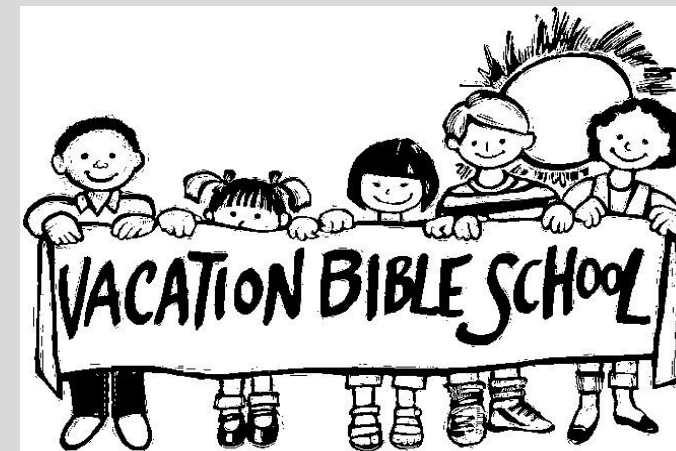
"God has done marvelous things." Psalm 98:1

Sunday, August 1 to Thursday, August 5  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Bring your elementary-aged kids or grandkids!  
Parents are welcome to stay or drop-off/pick-up.

Registration forms will be available on the first day.  
\$15 free-will donation per child.

\*Thursday Night - all family is encouraged to stay for closing worship and an ice-cream treat!



**Camp Corner**

**Deer Lake Frolic Wed Aug 18 at Camp Hiawatha**

VLM and Camp Hiawatha are members of the Deer Lake Association (DLA). In addition to Deer Lake water quality, DLA's mission includes building community among members, property owners, and the broader community who use or have connections to the lake, including you! We invite you to a summer picnic, called the Deer Lake Frolic, hosted by DLA at Camp Hiawatha. We encourage you to attend!



The 2021 Frolic is Wed Aug 18 from 5 pm-7 pm at Camp Hiawatha. Mark your calendars! Dinner is served at 6 pm. Dinner includes grilled chicken, corn-on-the-cob, cornbread, salad, and an ice cream treat for dessert. The Frolic also includes music, kids games, prizes, and silent auction. The event is free, but food tickets are \$12 per person (food tickets for age 6 & under are free).

Contact [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com) for \$12 advanced tickets or you may buy them at the door for \$15. Hope to see you there!

**Fall Retreat Opportunities**

Are you starting to plan your fall getaway? Camp has some great opportunities coming for you!

**Paddle Building Retreat** - October 15-17, 2021 - Camp Vermilion - Craft your own custom paddle from wooden blocks to completed paddle. Bring your family and friends and create a unique piece that you can take home at the end of the weekend.

**Quilting Retreat** - October 22-24, 2021 - Camp Vermilion - A focused time to get away, spread out your fabric in our lodge, and tackle that big project. Spend the night or come to sew and eat, then go home to sleep in your own bed.

If you are looking for a more custom retreat we can help you with options for lodging Contact the camp office at 800-331-5148 for availability and pricing.



## Save the dates - Church Work Days

The church council has decided to schedule a couple of work days to help with the things that need to be done here at Gethsemane. Come and lend a hand with these projects. We are only asking for a few hours of your time and if enough people show up, we will be able to accomplish a lot and make these tasks much easier.

The days and times are **Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm to 8 pm; and Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to noon.** Projects needed to be worked on are: cleaning and painting the Sunday school room and Fellowship Hall (please bring paint brushes or paint rollers); cleaning and organizing the garage; and moving Sunday school furniture and materials.

Excitement is building for the fall with Rally Sunday, Mission and Vision meeting, return to regular worship and community projects. Let's all pitch in on these projects that are important for our whole congregation! You have shown your support many times we are grateful. Please mark these days on your calendar now!

**Weekly Giving:** We are half-way through 2021. A 6-month review, through June, shows that weekly giving, plus bequests and other contributions, has averaged \$3,944 per week. This is \$521 per week more than what is required to meet our budgeted expenses. And actual expenditures have averaged 1% less than our budgeted expenses. Thank you everyone!!

Bruce

**Library News:** The library committee recently added new books including some for youth.

Here are some recommendations for Summer Youth Reads. **Author Chris Colfer - The Land of Stories series:** *The Wishing Spell, The Enchantress Returns, and A Grimm Warning.* **Authors Susan K. Leigh and Dan Carr - God I need to Talk to You series:** *Whining, Talking Back, Stealing, Laziness, Feeling Sad, and Homework.*

A classic youth read by **Author C.S. Lewis - The Chronicles of Narnia series:** *The Magician's Nephew, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Horse and His Boy, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair, The Last Battle.*

Books may be found on the library's glass shelves.

## Generosity Team

### GETHSEMANE GIFTS!

Welcome to our edition of "Gethsemane Gifts!" Each month we will recognize the gifts of generosity that we have experienced from our very own Gethsemane Family. We will focus on one member of our church who has experienced a time of support, love, and/or generosity from other members of our church.

#### **This month please welcome – The Zeidler Family**

Hello Gethsemane Family,

We have enjoyed being members for the past 17 years! Wow, where has the time gone?

We have always felt loved and at home here. You know that feeling, when you sit down in church and you feel like you can just exhale, because it's a place where you can lay your burdens. Yes, you can lay your burdens down anywhere, but when you are in that safe place filled with God's love and people, it makes it that much easier.

Our wish is that more families can find those feelings in our sanctuary and in our church family.

We love the music at church. I admit, I immediately scan the bulletin for the hymns we are singing from the red hymnal that Sunday. I love when Sue plays the organ, and am so grateful that we have a few people who know how to make that instrument sing! The choir is another joy. Many times I feel a little lump in my throat, and am moved by their passion and joy.

The gifts that have been given to us through our church have been many. We felt so much love, prayer, and support, when Jillian was going through some scary health challenges. Please keep those prayers coming. All 3 of our daughters were baptized at Gethsemane. Our girls have enjoyed their time in Sunday and Bible School (remember the Veggie Tale days). They have made new friendships though church and enjoyed growing their faith in God's Great North Woods at Camp Vermillion. Confirmation was a great experience for Jillian, even being confirmed by Bishop Tom (one of our favorite services of all time). Vienna will be confirmed this fall, and Genevieve is looking forward to her first communion classes.



## Generosity Team - continued-

We have had many transitions, and it feels good to have finally have an anchor again with Pastor Amy. Our hope for the future is that we will begin to see more families at church, enjoying worship together, and to see an active youth program again as our children grow in their faith.

Thank you Gethsemane family, for your love, gifts of friendship and faith.

The Zeidler Family  
Clayton, Emily, Jillian, Vienna & Genevieve

## WARM YOUR HEART COMMUNITY CLOTHESLINE and FOOD PANTRY

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner, but let's keep contributing to our Community Clothesline. Do you have extra jackets, shirts, sweat-shirts, pants, shoes, T-Shirts, etc...? I'm sure any type of clothing will be helpful.

You can help your neighbors by putting each item in a plastic bag to keep it dry, labeling it (for example, "child hat, size M" or "men's jacket, size XL"), and clip it anywhere on the 'clothesline' [on the fence] on the west side of the church! (Clothespins are on site). The Community Clothesline is accessible at all times (24/7) from both the north and south parking lots.

We also have a Community Food Pantry next to the clothesline for putting nonperishable food items, personal care items, and paper products.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN ~ TAKE WHAT YOU NEED. Let's do what we can to help our friends and neighbors.

## Ask & Receive

This is a way we can serve and love one another as Christ loves us. A few current needs are:

- Members who need rides to church.
- Community member needs a TracFone card
- Family who lost home in fire needs fish tank

If you see something you can do, bring the card to the church office and we'll connect you with the person who needs your skill, gift, or presence.

## Can You Buy Two?

Our food pantry has been a busy place, both by people giving & receiving food! Next time you are running into the store think -Could I buy two? Chances are the thing you are picking up for yourself would also be appreciated by someone utilizing our pantry. Maybe you are a diligent grocery store list maker so write "could I buy two" next to your note pad.

## The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota presents:

**A wonderful free summer concert by the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute on Monday, August 23 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Virginia, Minnesota @ 7:00 pm** in a program of quartets, octets and string orchestra.

Please join us for an evening of beautiful chamber music performed by 30 participants of the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute. The NLCMI is an annual summer institute where ten days of intense chamber music studies take place at Camp Vermillion on the pristine Lake Vermillion outside of Cook, MN. Gifted young musicians of college and high school age, along with internationally acclaimed faculty will participate in this concert.

The NLCMI faculty are violinist Young-Nam Kim, artistic director of the Chamber Music Society; Sally Chisholm, viola professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison; Daniel Kim, violist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Antony Arnone, cello professor at the University of Iowa,

The program will consist of quartets, sextets and octets by: **Bartok, Beethoven, Bruch, Dittersdorf, Dvorak, Haydn, Hindemith, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schumann, Smetana, Schullhoff, Vanhall and Shostakovich.**

All participants join at the conclusion of the concert and play together in a string orchestra.

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute-Festival is the premiere educational wing of the **Chamber Music Society of Minnesota**, Young-Nam Kim, Artistic Director.

## ROCK THE BLOCK PICNIC

Please join us on **Thursday, August 26th from 4:00-7:00 pm** as we invite our neighbors to join us and Peace United Methodist Church for a free meal and entertainment! We will be gathering in our north parking lot, but in the event of rain, the festivities will moved inside to Peace United Methodist! We will be entertained by the Hutter Bunch and will have a bounce house for the kids! We will be serving FREE hot dogs, corn on the cob, chips, water and root beer floats! Help us welcome our neighbors - It's going to be great!

If you are interested in helping with the Rock the Block Picnic please text or call Sheila Davidson-218-248-0351. Many helpers are needed, as much or as little as you can do:

1:00-3:00-setup & hauling of heavy items  
3:00-5:00-serving and running  
5:00-7:00-serving, running and takedown  
Thank you!